

Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC)

The Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 2002 (JJDPA) creates guidelines and standards for juvenile justice systems at the state and local level. The JJDPA requires states to comply with “Four Core Protections” which include deinstitutionalization of status offenders, separation of juvenile from adult inmates, removal of juveniles from adult jails and lockups, and addressing disproportionate minority contact (DMC). Specifically regarding DMC, it requires states to:

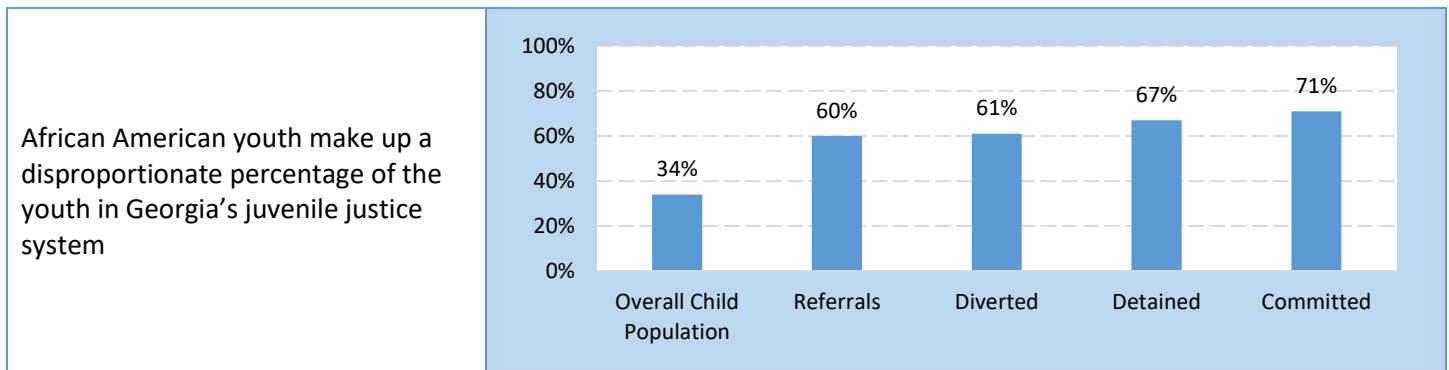
“address juvenile delinquency prevention efforts and system improvement efforts designed to reduce, without establishing or requiring numerical standards or quotas, the disproportionate number of juvenile members of minority groups, who come into contact with the juvenile justice system”

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) defines disproportionate minority contact as:

“the disproportionate number of minority youth who come into contact with the juvenile justice system”

In other words, when compared with their share of the overall child population, minority youth are over-represented in the juvenile justice system. For example, in Georgia, African American youth make up 34% of the child population and 67% of the youth who are detained.

Disproportionate Minority Contact in Georgia



	African American youth	Hispanic youth	White youth
A higher percentage of African American youth are referred to the juvenile justice system compared to white youth	3.5%	1.0%	1.3%
Minority youth are more likely than their white peers to be committed after being found delinquent	1 in 5	1 in 7	1 in 10

Sources

Data provided by the DMC Subcommittee of the Juvenile Justice State Advisory Group. Data was calculated from 2006 to 2014.

Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 2002, 42 U.S.C. §§ 5616–5617 (2002).

U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. (2012, November). OJJDP in Focus: Disproportionate Minority Contact. Retrieved from U.S. Department of Justice. <https://www.ojjdp.gov/pubs/239457.pdf>